



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 3128.10D  
N2L  
17 August 1995

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3128.10D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CLEARANCE PROCEDURES FOR VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES  
PORTS BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5500.11E (NOTAL)  
(b) OPNAVINST 8023.2C (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) Standard Clearance Procedures for Visits of Naval  
Vessels to United States Ports  
(2) Clearance Procedures Applicable for Visits by Foreign  
Naval Vessels to United States Ports from Countries  
which have treaties or Special Agreements with the  
United States

1. Purpose. To issue procedures applicable to be used by foreign governments in obtaining clearances to U.S. ports for foreign naval vessels, and to provide guidance to U.S. Navy commands in matters concerning these visits. This instruction is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 3128.10C.

3. Scope. This instruction sets forth port clearance procedures applicable to foreign vessels seeking entry to U.S. ports, with the following exceptions:

a. Foreign Naval Vessels Temporarily under Operational Control of U.S. Navy. The U.S. commanders exercising temporary operational control of foreign naval vessels will arrange visits to U.S. ports for those vessels utilizing standard procedures used for visits by U.S. Navy vessels. (See paragraph 7.)

b. Foreign Naval Vessels Entering Naval Defensive Sea Areas, Areas under U.S. Naval Administration, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau). This instruction applies to foreign naval vessels seeking entry into ports within Naval Defensive Sea Areas, Areas under U.S. Naval Administration, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau). However, it is emphasized that in addition to the port visit clearance, clearance to enter the ocean areas within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau) must also be granted under the provisions set forth in reference (a).



\* 0 5 7 9 L D 0 5 7 5 8 5 0 \*

17 AUG 1995

c. Foreign Naval Vessels Carrying Cargo Ammunition. Cargo ammunition is defined as ammunition carried on board ship and not intended for use by the ship's weapon systems, or ammunition stored in locations other than approved magazine spaces, launchers, or ready service lockers. Foreign naval vessels carrying cargo ammunition will submit port visit requests in accordance with this instruction. In addition, they must comply with the same requirements as USN cargo ammunition ships, as stated in reference (b).

4. Definitions. For the purpose of this instruction, the following definitions are applicable:

a. Foreign Naval Vessel. The term foreign naval vessel, as used here, means a vessel belonging to the naval forces of a foreign nation, bearing the external marks distinguishing warships of its nationality, under the command of a commissioned officer and manned by a crew subject to regular naval discipline and engaged solely in government service and not carrying commercial cargo or passengers for hire. In addition, auxiliaries, or ships on a nation's register of ships that are owned by, or under the exclusive control of the armed forces, even if bareboat chartered or chartered for a specific voyage or voyages, are also considered a foreign naval vessel as addressed here.

b. United States Ports. For the purpose of this instruction, this is any port located within any of the 50 United States, the American Samoas, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), Guam, Midway Island, Wake Island, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and any other port under United States jurisdiction. For purposes of this instruction only, U.S. naval facilities physically located within the territory of a third government are also included.

5. Types of visits. For the purpose of this instruction, visits are classified as formal (visit of courtesy), informal, or routine (operational).

a. Formal Visits. Formal visits of courtesy are rare and normally are made only on special occasions such as national or international celebrations or visits of chiefs of state. Formalities, in addition to honors and ceremonies, are prescribed by U.S. Navy Regulations.

b. Informal Visits. Informal visits are made primarily in the interest of familiarization, goodwill, and friendly relations. They require no special formalities other than making

117 AUG 1995

the official calls prescribed by U.S. Navy Regulations. Informal visits may, and usually do, include the objectives of routine visits. An exchange of social courtesies with the local military civilian officials is customary.

c. Routine (Operational) Visits. Routine visits are those made for logistic support, repairs, liberty and recreation, or in connection with operational tasks. No protocol is required other than that prescribed by local practice.

6. Procedures. Foreign governments shall utilize the following procedures to obtain clearance for their naval vessels to enter United States ports. Nothing in this instruction is intended to interfere with the right of innocent passage through territorial waters.

a. Standard Clearance. Standard clearance procedures are delineated by enclosure (1).

b. Special Agreements and Treaties. Countries having special agreements or treaties with the United States will follow the applicable procedures listed in enclosure (2). These countries are:

Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Greece  
Italy  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Philippines  
Portugal  
Spain  
Thailand  
Turkey  
United Kingdom

c. Emergency Clearance. Base commanders and fleet commanders are authorized to grant emergency clearances in the event of engine trouble, medical emergency, or force majeure. The Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) and other interested commands are to be notified immediately when such clearances are granted.

17 AUG 1995

d. Entry or Extension Without Clearance. If a foreign naval vessel arrives in a United States port without having received prior clearance, or remains in a United States port after authorized clearance has expired, and where no emergency conditions exist, the local commander may grant entry or extension to ships unless adverse local or international conditions preclude such a visit or extension. The Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) and other interested commands are to be informed by priority message when entry or extension is granted or denied under these conditions. The Chief of Naval Operations will then grant clearance or issue modifying instructions. Entry or extension without clearance procedures does not apply to foreign nuclear powered vessels. (See paragraph 6e.)

e. Nuclear Powered Vessels. Requests for visits to the United States ports by foreign nuclear powered vessels will be processed by the Chief of Naval Operations on a case-by-case basis. Requests for these are to be submitted to the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) by the naval attache of the country concerned in accordance with the standard clearance procedures described in enclosure (1), with the exception that a minimum of 60 days advance notice is required.

7. Combined Exercises. Foreign naval vessels which visit U.S. ports while participating in combined exercises under the operational control of a U.S. commander are not required to submit clearance requests to the Chief of Naval Operations. However, if a vessel desires entrance to a U.S. port before the U.S. commander assumes operational control of the unit, then clearance is required in accordance with the applicable procedures contained in enclosures (1) or (2). With the exception of the special agreements listed in enclosure (2), clearance for all visits is required from the Department of State.

8. Standing Naval Forces Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT). Foreign naval vessels operating as units of STANAVFORLANT are not required to obtain U.S. Navy or Department of State clearance to visit U.S. ports. Port visits for these vessels are arranged by the Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic in accordance with the provisions of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Council Memorandum 104-69 (NOTAL).

  
REGAN S. CHAMBERS  
By direction

17 AUG 1995

Distribution:

SNDL B5 (U.S. Coast Guard) (COMDT (10), LANT (5), PAC (5))  
 21A (Fleet Commanders in Chief)  
 FA7 (Station LANT)  
 FA24 (Base LANT)  
 FB10 (Station PAC)  
 FB28 (Base PAC)  
 FF1 (Naval District, Washington, DC)  
 FKP7 (Shipyard)  
 FR1 (Chief of Naval Reserve)  
 (SECSTATE) (S/CPR) (5)  
 (HICOMTERPACIS)

Copy to:

SNDL A1 (Immediate Office of the Secretary)  
 A2A (Department of the Navy Staff Offices) (OPA,  
 (CHINFO, JAG, and OLA, only)  
 A6 (Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps)  
 22A (Fleet Commanders)  
 23 (Force Commanders)  
 50A (Unified Commands)  
 50D (Components of Unified Commands) (COMUSNAVSO,  
 CINCUSNAVEUR, only)  
 C25A (OPNAV Support Activity Detachment) (Ft. Ritchie,  
 only)  
 C7 (U.S. Defense Attache Offices)  
 FKA1G (Sea Systems Command Headquarters)  
 FS1 (Intelligence Command Headquarters)  
 OPNAV (N00, N09, N09B, N2 (10 copies), N3/N5, N31/N52,  
 N4, N41, N43, N44, N51, N514, N521, N522, N523, N524, N6, N61,  
 N61C, N61F, N8, N86, N865, N869, N87, N872D, N88, N881, N95)

Commander, First Coast Guard District  
 Coast Guard Building  
 408 Atlantic Avenue  
 Boston, MA 02110-3350 (5 copies)

Commander, Second Coast Guard District  
 1222 Spruce Street  
 St. Louis, MO 63103-2832 (5 copies)

Commander, Maintenance & Logistics Command  
 Atlantic, USCG  
 Governors Island, Building 400  
 New York, NY 10004-5098 (5 copies)

OPNAVINST 3128.10D

17 AUG 1995

Distribution (continued):

Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District  
Federal Building, 431 Crawford Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 (5 copies)

Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District  
909 SE First Avenue  
Brickell Plaza Federal Building  
Miami, FL 33131-3050 (5 copies)

Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
Hale Boggs Federal Building  
501 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-3396 (5 copies)

Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District  
1240 East 9th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060 (5 copies)

Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District  
501 West Ocean, Suite 7170  
Long Beach, CA 90822-5399 (5 copies)

Commander, Maintenance & Logistics Command  
Pacific, USCG  
Coast Guard Island  
Alameda, CA 94501-5100 (5 copies)

Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District  
Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98174-1067 (5 copies)

Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
Prince Kalaniana'ole Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., 9th Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96850-4982 (5 copies)

Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517 (5 copies)

OPNAVINST 3128.10D  
117 AUG 1995

Distribution (continued):  
SECNAV/OPNAV Directive Control Office  
Washington Navy Yard Bldg 200  
901 M Street SE  
Washington, DC 20374-5074 (20 copies)

Order from:  
Naval Inventory Control Point  
Cog "I" Material  
700 Robbins Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098  
Stocked: 50 copies

17 AUG 1995

STANDARD CLEARANCE PROCEDURES  
FOR VISITS OF FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS  
TO UNITED STATES PORTS

1. Procedure. Two separate requests are required under standard clearance procedures. The first request must be submitted to the Department of State and the second request must be submitted to the Department of the Navy in the following manner:

a. Diplomatic Procedures. In conjunction with the naval attaches's request to the Chief of Naval Operations, the embassy concerned must submit a Note Verbale to the Department of State Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). This note should include the same information as contained in the request to the Navy.

b. U.S. Navy Procedures. Requests for foreign naval vessels to visit United States ports should be submitted at least 30 days in advance by the naval attache of the country concerned, to the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L). Requests should contain the following information:

- (1) Name(s) and type(s) of vessel(s)
- (2) Name of port(s) to be visited.
- (3) Type of visit (formal, informal, or routine).
- (4) Date of arrival and departure at each port.
- (5) Name and rank of commanding officer.
- (6) Number of officers and enlisted personnel aboard.
- (7) Civilians/passengers embarked.
- (8) Name of any civilian or military officer embarked who is of higher rank than the commanding officer.
- (9) Names and nationalities of embarked foreign nationals if they are of a different nationality from the vessel's nation.
- (10) Whether local flights of ship-based aircraft are desired and/or landing authorization at U.S. military installations is desired.

Enclosure (1)



17 AUG 1995

(11) Ship's data: length, draft, beam, cargo and other pertinent data.

(12) Cargo/supplies to be loaded/off-loaded.

(13) Communications frequencies to be transmitted in transit within territorial waters and while inport. Max power output in watts of navigation radars and communication systems.

2. Clearance. Upon receipt of the naval attache's requesting facsimile or letter, the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) will process the request within 5 working days, coordinating with the Department of State. Fleet commanders and area coordinators (enclosure (2)) will be notified by message from the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) that clearance is approved. The clearance message will grant the clearance contingent upon approval of the fleet commanders. This will allow fleet commanders to advise against visits on the basis of temporarily limited logistical resources and similar operational constraints. The Department of State and all interested commands will be included as information addressees on the clearance message.

3. Third Country Clearance. For visits of foreign naval vessels to United States naval facilities located within the territory of a third country, including visits covered under the treaties and special agreements of enclosure (2), port clearance granted by the United States does not constitute port clearance by the third country government. It is the responsibility of the visiting naval vessel's government to obtain any diplomatic clearance which may be required by the third country government. Verification that the third country clearance has been granted may be confirmed by the appropriate in-country United States Defense Attache Office (USDAO).

CLEARANCE PROCEDURES APPLICATION FOR  
VISITS BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS TO  
UNITED STATES PORTS FROM  
COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE TREATIES OR  
SPECIAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES

1. Formal Visits. All requests for formal visits will be processed in accordance with the procedures set forth in enclosure (1) regardless of treaties or special agreements.

2. NATO Countries. Under the provisions of STANAG 1100 (Standardization of Procedures for Visits to NATO and non-NATO ports by NATO naval forces (NOTAL)), request for informal and routine visits to ports in the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii by naval vessels from NATO countries which have ratified the agreement should be submitted to the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) by the naval attache of the country concerned. These visits, however, are processed on a navy-to-navy basis and it is therefore not necessary for the embassy concerned to submit a Note Verbale to the Department of State. Requests for visits to U.S. controlled ports outside the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii will be submitted in accordance with enclosure (1) unless provided for separately elsewhere in this enclosure. NATO countries which have ratified STANAG 1100 (NOTAL) are:

Belgium  
Canada (see paragraph 3)  
Denmark  
France  
Germany, Federal Republic of  
Greece  
Italy  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Portugal  
Turkey  
United Kingdom (see paragraph 4)  
United States

3. Canada. By agreement between the governments of Canada and the United States, the procedure termed "Notification of Visit" will be followed. Notification for visits to the United States ports by Canadian naval vessels should contain the information listed in paragraph 1 of enclosure (1) and will be submitted at least 96 hours in advance directly to the area coordinator of the port(s) to be visited:

Enclosure (2)

17 AUG 1995

- a. Commander, Submarine Group Two, New London, Connecticut (COMSUBGRU TWO) for all east coast ports from Maine south to Delaware, inland on the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River north of Arkansas.
- b. Commandant, Naval District Washington, District of Columbia (COMNAVDIST WASHINGTON DC) for visits to District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia.
- c. Commander, Naval Base Norfolk, Virginia (COMNAVBASE NORFOLK VA) for visits to Virginia (Norfolk area) and ports south through North Carolina.
- d. Commander, Naval Base Jacksonville, Florida (COMNAVBASE JACKSONVILLE FL) for visits to South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.
- e. Commander, Naval Reserve, New Orleans, Louisiana (COMNAVRESFOR NEW ORLEANS LA) for visits to Mississippi-Louisiana boundary to the Texas-Mexico boundary and north on the Mississippi River to the northern Arkansas boundary.
- f. Commander, Naval Base San Francisco, California (COMNAVBASE SAN FRANCISCO CA) for visits from the northern boundary of California south to and including Santa Cruz.
- g. Commander, Naval Base San Diego, California (COMNAVBASE SAN DIEGO CA) for visits to California, less ports under the cognizance of COMNAVBASE San Francisco.
- h. Commander, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (COMNAVBASE PEARL HARBOR HI) for visits to Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.
- i. Commander, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (COMNAVBASE PEARL HARBOR HI) for visits to Hawaii.
- j. Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI) for all visits to all U.S. ports in the Pacific not mentioned above.
- k. Commander, Fleet Air Caribbean, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico (COMFAIRCARIB DET ROOSEVELT ROADS PR) for all visits to Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

117 AUG 1995

1. Chief of Naval Operations (N2L), Washington, DC (CNO WASHINGTON DC) for visits to any U.S. naval activities not previously mentioned or when unusual circumstances warrant.

4. United Kingdom. In addition to clearance procedures provided for under the STANAG 1100 agreement, and by virtue of long-standing operating agreements, the Commander, British Naval Staff (CBNS), Washington, DC, or the British Defense Advisor (BRITDEFAD), Nassau, Bahamas, acting on behalf of the Royal Navy, are authorized to request visit clearances directly to area coordinators of the ports to be visited.

5. Spain. By agreement between the governments of Spain and the United States, the Spanish Naval Attache will notify the Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) not less than 5 days in advance of the visit. The notification for visits to United States ports by Spanish Naval vessels should contain the information listed in paragraph 1 of enclosure (1).

6. Australia and New Zealand. Visits to U.S. possessions and bases in the Pacific Ocean will be processed by the Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT), Pearl Harbor, HI. This procedure does not include visits to the continental United States, Alaska, or the Aleutian Islands.

7. The Chief of Naval Operations (N2L) and appropriate fleet commanders (CINCLANTFLT Norfolk VA or CINCPACFLT Pearl Harbor HI) should be information addressees on all correspondence pertaining to visits processed under the procedures listed in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.